

THE FALCON FLYER

January 31, 2011

www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/floral



Dear Floral Street School Families,

We'd like your help. As part of our School Improvement Plan (presented earlier this fall to the School Committee), our School Council has had discussions of implementing a new communication vehicle as part of **our over-arching goal of continuously improving the home-school connection**. We have this *Falcon Flyer* as a regular communication, one which can contain everything from quick reminders to deadlines to longer reflections on the school and our community. We also have something called the *Floral Focus*, a longer written piece that will be re-started this spring that provides opportunity to take a number of pages to discuss a big-picture topic.

What we noticed in looking at these two vehicles is that neither fills a third need – a place to answer those frequently asked questions that come up so often, whether in PTO meetings or parent conferences, questions that often take the form of wondering why the school or district has a certain practice. These questions involve everything from the nature of reading instruction, to the rationale for homework, to how science is integrated into elementary curriculum, to how recesses are scheduled. One thing we know for certain is that when one person has a question, there are likely others who have the same one, especially in a community as large as ours. The School Council would like to try answering these questions in a way that everyone can benefit from a short, timely discussion. We're not talking about a Twitter-like 140 characters here, but a brief discussion and perhaps a link or two to an important or interesting resource.

So...we'd love to know what *your* question is. As a parent, what's something you've always wondered about how schools work, be it curriculum, schedules, you name it. If you've got a question you'd like to share, follow this link and let us know!

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/D33R9GB>

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Box Tops Contest – Winning Class to get a Pizza Party

The PTO is collecting box tops and the class that sends in the most box tops by Monday, February 7th will win a pizza party with Mr. Curtis and Mrs. McCubrey. Coupons must be submitted in bags with the teachers name on it to receive proper credit. Last year we received \$1651 for the coupons we collected! If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Flynn at kathcf@townisp.com.

Literacy Night – SAVE THE DATE!!!

Floral Street School will be hosting Literacy Night on Friday, April 8th at 5:30 pm. Please help us out by donating any gently used or new books to the book swap. We especially need books for 2nd – 4th grade level. There will be bins set up in the school lobby labeled "Book Swap" beginning Monday, January 24th. Any questions please email Maureen Harrington at harringtonjm@verizon.net. Thanks so much for your help!

Yankee Candle Fundraiser

The PTO will be conducting its Yankee Candle Spring fundraising project from February 7th to February 18th. Flyers will be coming home soon. Yankee candles make great Mother's Day gifts and we earn 40% profit on everything sold! Please contact Teri Blum with any questions at Blum@townisp.com or (508) 841-9955.

The Elementary Lunch Menu can be found at any time at:

<http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/departments/division.php?fDD=20-17>

Important Dates

February 21-25	No School – Presidents' Day & Winter Vacation
March 5 th	Breakfast with Somebuddy Special
April 8 th	Literacy Night, 5:30 pm

MCAS Dates:

March 22 nd	Long Composition – 4 th Grade
March 23 rd & 24 th	ELA – 3 rd Grade
March 30 th & 31 st	ELA – 4 th Grade
May 17 th & 18 th	Math – 3 rd Grade
May 24 th & 25 th	Math – 4 th Grade

The full district school calendar is available at:

http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/egov/docs/1276871197_585906.pdf